

building COMMUNITY

For Indiana's Third Century

March 1, 2002

**building
COMMUNITY**, a bimonthly publication of Indiana 2016, solicits articles from around Indiana that illustrate community-based efforts. Please electronically submit articles to jswenson@gov.state.in.us. Digital photographs are accepted and encouraged.

In this issue

*How to become an
Indiana 2016
School*

Habla español?

Gatherings

Character Ed

*Resource reviews
Book buddies
Museum kits
Courts in the
Classroom*



Indiana 2016
4750 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46016
Tel: 317.283.8175
Fax: 317.283.1201
indiana2016@gov.state.in.us
Copyright 2002 © Indiana 2016
All rights reserved.



by Katy Brett

Community effort moves Indiana 2016 School ahead

“Positive efforts of staff and parents have drastically changed the culture of our school,” observed Stephany Bourne, Principal of **Indian Village Elementary School** in **Fort Wayne**. Principal Bourne’s assessment is a powerful testimony to the impact of community effort, and Indian Village School is a Hoosier success story.

Three years ago Indian Village was subject to an on-site review by the Department of Education due to low-test scores.

Since then, the school has witnessed a major turn around. Scholastically, the 2001 ISTEP exam reveals that the students scored in the 82 percentile in language arts and the 95 percentile in Math. Socially, Project Peace, a conflict mediation program supported by the Indiana Bar Association, is changing the way students deal with disagreements.

Staff development and training has been re-focused to meet the changing needs of children in poverty and at-risk, and building renovation has improved the learning environment. Not surprisingly, there’s a growing pride among staff, students, and community members.

A bulk of the credit for the turn around goes to creative teachers and administration. When a group of Indian Village teachers learned of the resources available on the Indiana 2016 Website (www.indiana2016.org), they decided to develop learning activities celebrating Hoosier inventiveness.

Realizing that their students could relate to such recognizable items as the snow cone machine, fluoride toothpaste, and the first motion picture projector, teachers built study plans around inventions that originated in Indiana. Students research the inventors and the social significance of their inventions. Teachers also relate the inventions to the role Indiana companies play in today’s technology markets.

Students in Stacy Bell’s fifth grade class are learning about the impact of Hoosier technology in their study of the comparisons between vinyl records and compact discs—Indiana ranks third in the manufacturing of compact discs. As Miss Bell commented, “Inventions make life better and kids are our future...” An Inventions Fair and a mural depicting Hoosier inventions through the years are in the works.

Teachers are also exploring ways to maximize community involvement with their classes—by asking senior citizens to discuss the evolution of technology and inventions during their lifetimes or by inviting area businessmen and entrepreneurs into the classroom to discuss the role of technology and creativity in their fields.

In recognition of its creative solutions, Indian Village Elementary is one of the first *Indiana 2016 Schools*. Indian Village is proof that a combined effort of community and staff can result in stronger schools and bring diverse groups together.



Gatherings

by Judy O'Bannon

Be an O'Bannon Book Buddy



www.obannonbookbuddy.com

This Website encourages reading and promotes excellent children's literature. Kids are directed to age-appropriate books of the month.

They can share book reviews and explore links with libraries throughout the state, as well as other Websites that encourage reading.

As a child I carried only my pencil box and lunch sack to school. Today's students take book bags, and some even carry laptop computers.

Indiana schools are "a poppin'" with activities that express the value of doing things together in response to needs of today and that stretch our minds, bodies and character in preparation for the future.

What's in this word—future? We know right off that we can expect the future to offer new opportunities and responsibilities. We have to scamper fast to take advantage of all life has to offer and to understand how to live within these new conditions peacefully and productively. It is amidst this climate of change that we approach our bicentennial of the state in the year 2016.

Wherever you stand in life today, you are part of various communities. These could be your family, your neighborhood or indeed your school. In this, the inaugural issue of *Building Community*, we explore some of these exciting and innovative directions in our educational communities. Come along—we have challenges ahead—and oh, my, what rewards!

Resource review

The world at your fingertips

It's a teacher's dream. Illustrate the life cycle of a butterfly with actual specimens. Introduce students to hand-carved wooden artifacts and traditional tools from Africa while you read them tales from Zimbabwe. Explain step-by-step exactly how settlers made soap.



This is one dream that is within easy reach. Indiana teachers, home school educators, summer camp coordinators, church organizations and other adults who work with children can reserve materials from the **Teacher Resource Link of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis**. The Museum offers artifacts, literature, videos, animal mounts, models, games and puzzles—all related to more than 40 educational topics ranging from Indiana history to ocean life.

For more information, call 317-334-4001 or log onto <http://www.childrensmuseum.org/teachers/trl.htm>. Catalogs are available for \$3.50, and kits range in price from \$5 to \$20 for two to four-week rentals.

Courts in the Classroom

Tucked unobtrusively into the historic backdrop of Indiana's Supreme Court chambers, are four cameras that enable Indiana to be one of the first states to provide live cybercast of the state's high court's oral arguments.

Log onto www.IN.gov/judiciary/education/ and move your gavel (cursor) to Oral Arguments Online to hear first-hand what goes on in the courtroom. With a single click you can check out the related article from Indiana's Constitution. Select an age-appropriate learning activity. The site even provides references to applicable state Social Studies standards.

The Courts in the Classroom site makes Indiana's judicial system understandable and relevant to more Hoosiers. For more information, call Elizabeth Osborn at (317) 233-8682.

Crestview Elementary students display their Valentines for Vets, an example of a character education program integrated into the curriculum.



Shaping character with heart

by Katy Brett

Cutting out red and pink hearts is just one way **Lawrence Township's Crestview Elementary** integrates character education into their daily curriculum.

Students in Mrs. Ayres' fourth grade class had just completed a social studies lesson on citizenship and the rights and responsibilities of citizens, when she received a letter from Rep. Julia Carson's office asking teachers to have their students take time out to remember our veterans on Valentine's Day.

By tying traditional social studies curriculum with a lesson on respect and compassion, Ayres said, an activity like this allows students to see their ability to "impact many with little effort." As one fourth-grader's card read, "I thank you for fighting for Americans, and you don't even know most of them."

Lawrence Township, under the direction of superintendent, Dr. Timothy Hyland, and spurred on by the enthusiasm of assistant superintendent, Dr. Duane Hodgins, is illustrating that character-building activities need not be an "add-on" or additional burden for teachers. Instead, they can easily be integrated into the classroom experience. Through various service projects, Principal Roger Cazee and teachers at Crestview Elementary are giving their students a chance to be active in their community, empowering them with the question, "What will YOU do to make this a great day?"

Answers thus far have included Penny Power, raising \$1,014.65 to buy toys and clothes for 10 children from Family Support Center, collecting 500 pairs of socks for the Guardian's Home and helping to provide Thanksgiving meals for 13 families. Students have also written letters to thank area mail carriers, painted animal sock puppets for children at Riley Hospital, and participated in a variety of activities to benefit victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

To learn more about integrating character education into your curriculum, contact Don Peslis at the Governor's Center for Character Development in Anderson, Indiana. (765-641-3861)

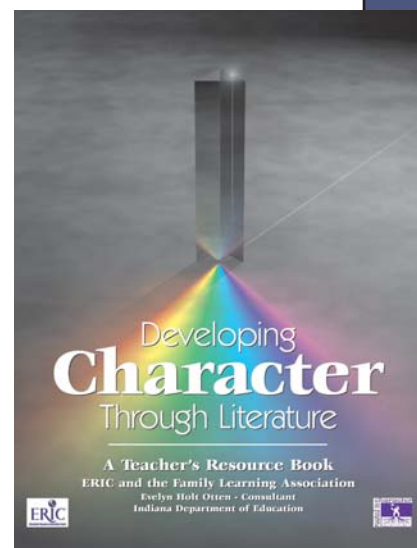
Children are captivated when they read Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* about a friendship that endures the German occupation of Denmark. They not only enjoy the story, they are also touched by the message of living peaceably in spite of adversity.

Number the Stars, appropriate for children in grades 4-7, is only one of many children's books cited in Dr. Evelyn Holt Otten's new resource, *Developing Character Through Literature*. Recognizing the power that good literature has to teach character, Dr. Holt Otten, Indiana Coordinator for Character Education, has authored this guidebook to give teachers and parents comprehensive tools for using children's books as a vehicle to discuss such character traits as sharing, respect, civility, honesty and integrity.

Including an annotated bibliography of books appropriate for grades K through 12, the book also offers activities, summaries of the lives of heroes, handouts for photocopying and an annotated bibliography for further reading.

The book is available through the ERIC Clearinghouse for Reading English and Communication. For more information, call Wendy Hodina at 1-800-759-4723.

-Jennifer Swenson



Indiana's face of change

by Jonathan Swain

Spanish phrases are popping up in store windows, in doctors' offices and even on television commercials all over the state, clear indications of Indiana's growing Hispanic/Latino population.

Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Helps the state meet needs and identify resources for the growing Hispanic-Latino community, including access to state and local government services, race and ethnic relations, and job skills development and training. Governor O'Bannon's Deputy Chief of Staff, Pat Rios, chairs the Commission.

Contact: Jeanette Marquez, 317-234-2285.

Indiana communities are meeting the needs arising from this growth in creative ways. **Harrison County's** Christina Gettlefinger sees it as an opportunity to bring people together.

Gettlefinger spent two years teaching in Honduras. Since returning two years ago to her hometown of **Corydon**, she has been instrumental in the creation of Madera Ministries, a local service center.

The first new arrivals from Spanish speaking countries were predominantly men coming to work. Now, families are moving in to join their husbands and fathers. In fact, Gettlefinger cites the arrival last October of two young high

school students from Mexico as a Corydon success story in the making.

Neither of the youth came to Indiana with strong English skills. To address the language barrier, the Madera Center set up twice-weekly tutoring sessions. Gettlefinger also meets regularly with high school administrators to work out the best approach to helping the two young men with their other courses.

"Obviously, neither the school, nor the community, wants these two to fail," Gettlefinger said. "That's why we are spending the time to make sure they are given the resources and opportunities to succeed."

Additionally, Madera is working to build a partnership with neighboring **New Albany** Spanish Ministry so the two can meet other young men their age.

Madera is also proud of other community-based initiatives. Recently, the local justice center began providing an interpreter each Monday. *The Corydon Democrat* regularly publishes information on services and events in Spanish.

Gettlefinger also teaches a weekly English as a Second Language course. Once each month, she invites local professionals to speak to the ESL class on topics ranging from health issues to banking options.

Spanish-speaking community members serve as interpreters for these sessions. According to Gettlefinger, "They think it's fun to use their Spanish and it gives the students another person in the community to identify with."

Immigrant Services Coalition of Indiana

Meets bimonthly on topics related to education, social services and legal issues for Indiana's new immigrant populations. Contact: Angela Iza, Education Consultant, Indiana Department of Education's Division of Language Minority and Migrant Programs, 1-800-382-9962

Yours may be the next *Indiana 2016 School*

Look inside almost any Hoosier School, and you'll find some pretty innovative programs. You'll see activities that teach the required material while making the facts relevant and exciting. And often, you'll find the students are learning to serve their neighbors in the process.

In some schools, an especially original program involves the arts, while others delve into history, character development, service learning, or technology. If you know of a school with an exciting success story to tell, why not nominate it for inclusion in our new database of *Indiana 2016 Schools*.

Indiana 2016 Schools stand out as a result of community members—teachers, parents, students, businesses—who work together, who take initiative, who find new ways to accomplish age-old goals, who make a difference today, and who will move Indiana into a dynamic third century.

E-mail us at indiana2016@gov.state.in.us with the following information: School, contact, e-mail, telephone number and a one- to two-paragraph description of the outstanding program that you think makes yours an *Indiana 2016 School*.

building
COMMUNITY
editor in chief
JUDY OBANNON
managing editor
JENNIFER SWENSON
contributing editors
KATY BRETT
JONATHAN SWAIN
design
LORI PETERSON